

Limited outdoor Scouting from Monday May 18

On May 11 2020, the Victorian government released details of its first step in relaxing COVID-19 restrictions.

This is great news and means that Scouting can carefully undertake some outdoor activities from Monday May 18.

The following guidelines should be used by Leaders planning Scouting activities. These will remain current until they are updated, following any further relaxation of restrictions by the Victorian government. This is not expected before May 31 2020.

Local needs will define if some activities can return. For example, it may not be appropriate for some Leaders to support activities due to personal health reasons.

If you need help keeping your youth members engaged, please ask other Groups, Sections or Leaders. There are plenty of good ideas out there!

Key Messages

- Some outdoor activities in small groups of up to 10 are permitted from Monday May 18. Only activities that can be undertaken with physical distancing will initially be possible, with no indoor activities (including meetings at people's homes)
- These are small group or Patrol activities in separate locations – not full-Section activities. (Section gatherings should continue online.) Four small groups under 10 people meeting in four corners of the same park would be regarded as a breach of these guidelines.
- Halls remain closed apart from necessary maintenance, to access equipment for use in outdoor activities, or to use toilet facilities while undertaking outdoor activities
- Section meetings remain online
- Training and Leader meetings will continue online for now
- Camping is not permitted at this stage (apart from "Camping at Home")
- Campsites may open for hosting permitted day activities
- Travel to activities must be on foot, bicycle, individual vehicle, or family drop off, etc. No shared vehicles. Try to keep distance travelled reasonably short
- Strict physical distancing and personal hygiene rules still apply

Physical distancing and Personal Hygiene requirements

The following requirements must be implemented at all times:

- 1.5-metre separation
- No shaking hands or hugs



- Hand sanitiser to be available to each participant and used at the beginning, end and regularly throughout the activity
- Cleaning of equipment before and after use
- No sharing of equipment during activities
- No sharing food or drink
- No one is to participate if they are unwell, especially if they have cold- or flu-like symptoms

In addition, the following controls should be in place for all outdoor activities:

- Prior to the activity, ensure you have no more than 10 people attending – including youth members and adults. You don't want to be turning people away, so please plan carefully.
- Write down a list of all those present (don't use a sign in book), then take a photo and send it to your Group Leader. We need to keep this information for 28 days.
- All activities must be registered in Out and About (<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/age-sections-adults/member-resources/safety/scout-about/>)
- Leaders with health issues that put them at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 should not participate in activities but can support through remote supervision. Discuss options with your Group Leader and your District can support with resources too. In certain circumstances, Group Rostered Parents could help with providing a second adult on activities. The Victorian Department of Human Services has a good fact sheet for people at risk available at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-factsheet-risk-people-community>
- Consider the adult support required; some activities may not be appropriate in every circumstance.

Permitted Activities

We are all excited to be able to get some outdoor activities happening again but there is a lot more to manage with Coronavirus. We recommend that any activity planned should be based on activities that you have undertaken previously. Stay close to home and keep the activity brief.

Note: Overnight activities are not yet permitted (other than 'Camping at Home').

These activities can be undertaken if the following requirements are met:

Bushwalking

Activities in groups of up to 10, practising physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements. No overnight hikes etc.

General Outdoor activities

(environment activities, wide games, urban hikes, outdoor cooking, games, construction, badgework, etc)

Activities in groups of up to 10, practising physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements.

Cycling

Activities in groups of up to 10. Participants should use a bicycle and equipment that is allocated to them as individuals. Equipment should be cleaned before and after use. Cyclists should avoid cycling in the slipstream of the person ahead and keep an extended distance.



Paddling

Permitted for experienced participants in groups of up to 10 if using equipment allocated to an individual (eg specific seat, PFD, paddle, etc). Participants must be able to put on their own equipment themselves.

Scuba

Permitted for experienced participants in groups of up to 10 if using equipment allocated to an individual. Participants must be able to put on their own equipment themselves.

Archery

Permitted outdoors in groups of up to 10, practising physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements, no sharing of bows and arrows, etc.

Performing Arts

Outdoor rehearsals and performances in groups of up to 10, practising physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements

Four-Wheel Driving

Permitted in groups of up to 10 if using own vehicle (or the other occupants are from the same household)

All activities that can be undertaken within the Scouting at Home environment are permitted if safe to do so.

If you wish to organise an activity that is not on this list, please contact coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au with a description of your activity and proposed safeguards

Scouting members with COVID-19

If you become aware that a Scouting member who attended a Scouting activity is subsequently identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19 please immediately contact the 24-hour Scouts Victoria Emergency Line on 03 8543 9877.

The team will support you on the required communication and response required.